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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6660**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 383

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 22, 2010

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Parole for Long-Term Inmates.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Charbonneau

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that, with certain exceptions, an individual serving a sentence for multiple felonies or serving multiple life sentences is eligible for parole after serving 30 years.

(The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Criminal law and Sentencing Policy Study Committee.)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** LSA identified 46 offenders who could be eligible for parole, effective July 1, 2011. The Department of Correction (DOC) could reduce expenditures if these offenders are released on parole. Being eligible for a parole hearing does not guarantee that these offenders will be released on parole.

**Background** – IC 11-13-3-2 applies to offenders who have been sentenced prior to 1977 and are confined indefinitely. Currently, these offenders would not be eligible for parole. If the exception is made for these offenders, then the Parole Board would review their records. The Parole Board would determine whether the inmate has been rehabilitated and has suitable plans that would warrant discharge from custody.

Prior to a hearing, the Parole Board would order an investigation of the offender and collect the following information (IC 11-13-3-3(b)):

(1) reports regarding the person's medical, psychological, educational, vocational, employment, economic,

and social condition and history;

(2) official reports of the person's history of criminality;

(3) reports of earlier parole or probation experiences;

(4) reports concerning the person's present commitment that are relevant to the parole release determination;

(5) any relevant information submitted by or on behalf of the person being considered; and

(6) such other relevant information concerning the person as may be reasonably available.

*Estimated Savings* – Since this bill would affect a limited number of offenders, LSA used an annual cost of \$12,775 per offender to represent any potential savings. Since DOC adult facilities are generally at full capacity, a percentage of offenders are confined in county jails for part or all of their terms of incarceration. DOC pays county sheriffs \$35 per day (annual cost of confinement would be \$12,775) for each offender who is sentenced for a felony. If fewer long-term offenders are in DOC facilities, DOC may be able to transfer more offenders to DOC facilities.

Using the 46 offenders identified who could be eligible for parole, DOC could save as much as \$588,000 if all 46 are released. On July 1, 2011, the average age of these offenders would be almost 65.

Number of Offenders		Annual Cost of Confinement in County Jail		Estimated Avoided Cost for DOC
46	x	\$12,775	=	\$587,650

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

**State Agencies Affected:** DOC, Parole Board Department of Correction.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** DOC Offender Information System.

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